



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Nashville District
P.O. Box 1070
Nashville, TN 37202

News Release

98-24

Ed Evans

Release Number

Contact

Immediate, Oct. 15, 1998

(615) 736-7161 (615) 736-7065

Phone

Fax

HENDERSONVILLE CEREMONY PLANNED TODAY

U.S. Congressman Bart Gordon will be the Keynote Speaker at a 2 p.m. ceremony today in Hendersonville to announce the city's Millennium Project.

Other speakers will include Mayor Hank Thompson, representatives from the offices of Senators Bill Frist and Fred Thompson, and Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Young, Nashville District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The ceremony will be held in Hendersonville Memorial Park, located on Highway 31E, adjacent to Drakes Creek. The public is invited to the ceremony and ample parking will be provided.

Drakes Creek is a 4-mile long embayment on the lower end of Old Hickory Lake in Hendersonville. The embayment serves as both a wildlife refuge managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Refuge Agency (TWRA) and the highly used park in the heart of the city. Sedimentation has caused a deterioration of the natural and recreational assets of Drakes Creek, and resulted in unsightly and troublesome shallow waters, degradation of the environment, hazardous boating and lost recreational opportunities. Stagnant waters and exposed mud flats are public nuisances, aesthetic eyesores, and detrimental to fish.

A proposed \$7 million dollar environmental restoration project, cost-shared by the federal government and the city of Hendersonville, would correct many of these problems and beautify the area. The project would consist of a levee beginning near the edge of the Highway 31E bridge and extending for approximately 2,100 feet around the waterfowl island, creating a 10-acre subimpoundment. The subimpoundment would be excavated and restructured to provide fish spawning and rearing habitat.

The upper end of the creek would be dredged to restore creek-like conditions and create a 450-acre mosaic of emergent wetlands. The wetlands would be designed to improve the aquatic environment and provide ideal fish habitat and recreational fishing opportunities.

To Better Serve the Public